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SOUTH MOLTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1950

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M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.),
Medical Officer of Health.

S. W. LYDDON, PRINTER, SOUTH MOLTON.

113, East Street,
South Molton,
July, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the
South Molton Rural District Council.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Rural District for the year 1950.

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon),
Medical Officer of Health.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE SOUTH MOLTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

For the year ended December 31st, 1950

LIST OF STAFF.

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :—

Part-time Officers :—

F. J. H. MARTIN,
M.R.C.S. (Eng,) L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon)
Medical Officer of Health.

Mrs. ELWORTHY, Clerk.

Whole-time Officer :—

A. G. OXLAND, L.R.I.B., A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Chief Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.

L. W. EVES, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Additional Sanitary Inspector to April 1950.

W. H. KARSLAKE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector May to Nov. 1950
Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor,
Nov. 10th to Dec. 31st, 50.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	117,432
Population	9,038
Inhabited Houses	2,807
Rateable Value	£29,825
Sum represented by a penny rate	£124

Vital Statistics.

		Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	...	67	91	158
Illegitimate	...	1	2	3
				161

Rate per 1,000 population 17·8

		Males	Females	Total
STILL BIRTHS—Legitimate	...	4	0	4
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
				4

Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births 24·2

	Males	Females	Total
DEATHS	48	52	100

Death rate per 1,000 population 11·1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal Causes	0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0
			4

Rate per 1,000 Live Births 24·8

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...	0

Below I append a Table that shows the comparative figures for South Molton Borough and England and Wales.

The total Birth Rate and the total Death Rate are shown corrected by the area comparability factors.

Rate per 1,000 population.			Death Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years
South Molton R.D.	20·6	·44	9·8	24·8	0
England and Wales ...	15·8	·37	11·6	29·8	1·9

Causes of Death during the year 1950

	Males	Females
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0	1
Syphilitic Disease	1	1
Acute Polio Myelitis	1	0
Malignant Neoplaseus (breast)	0	1
Malignant Neoplaseus (aterus)	0	1
Other Malignant and Sympathic Neoplaseus	4	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	5	9
Coronary Disease	4	3
Other Heart Disease	13	21
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	1
Influenza	1	0
Pneumonia	0	1
Bronchitis	3	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	1	1
Nephritis	1	0
Other defined and ill defined Diseases ...	8	7
Accident	2	0
Suicide	1	0
	48	52

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified in 1950

(in age groups, excluding Tuberculosis)

AGE Years	Measles M	Measles F	Whooping Cough M	Whooping Cough F	Scarlet Fever M	Scarlet Fever F	Pneumonia M	Pneumonia F	Polio Myolitis M	Polio Myolitis F	Erysipelas M	Erysipelas F
0-1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-2 ...	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
2-3 ...	3	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
3-4 ...	3	6	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4-5 ...	5	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
5-10 ...	33	31	4	5	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 ...	6	10	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 ...	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25 ...	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25-30 ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
34 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
38 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
41 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
58 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
74 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS -	56	73	6	9	3	5	3	—	3	1	—	1

I append a Table which shows the distribution of Infectious Diseases notified during 1950 (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Polio Myolitis	Erysipelas
Bishopsnympton ...	6	3	—	—	—	—
Charles	12	—	—	—	—	—
Chittlehamholt ...	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chulmleigh ...	—	—	6	—	—	—
East Anstey ...	1	—	—	1	—	—
Filleigh	—	—	—	—	3	—
Georgenympton ...	—	1	—	—	—	—
Kingsnympton ...	25	1	—	—	—	—
Knowstone ...	—	—	—	1	—	—
Mariansleigh ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Meshaw	1	1	—	—	—	—
Molland	3	—	—	—	—	—
North Molton ...	62	3	—	—	—	—
Rackenford ...	—	—	2	—	—	—
Rose Ash	1	—	—	—	—	—
Satterleigh & Warkleigh ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Twitchen	10	—	—	—	—	—
West Anstey ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
West Buckland ...	5	—	—	—	—	—
Witheridge ...	—	6	—	1	—	1
TOTALS -	129	15	8	3	4	1

Tuberculosis.

During the year 1950, 5 cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 4 of them Pulmonary cases, and 1 Non Pulmonary. There were no deaths.

Acute Polio Myolitis.

During the year 4 cases were notified for the area 2 adults and 2 children. There were 2 deaths.

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

HOSPITALS.

1. TUBERCULOSIS.

Hawley Sanitorium situated in the Borough of Barnstaple, has 29 beds.

2. MATERNITY CARE.

The Devon County Council is continuing to act as they did in 1949 as agents of the Regional Hospital Board, until the Board has completed its own plans for the treatment of Maternity Cases.

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital continues to function under the North Devon Hospital Group, and deals with a certain number of Maternity cases.

There is also a Ward of 15 beds, with a fully qualified staff, at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, available for maternity cases of doubt and difficulty.

During the coming year a General Practitioners Maternity Unit of 13 beds will be opened at "Highfield", Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

3. ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases are sent to the Bideford Isolation Hospital, which is situated just outside the Borough of Bideford. It is of recent construction and well equipped in every way for the treatment of Infectious Diseases. It comprises 34 beds (6 of which are in observation cubicles) and 4 cots.

4. SMALL POX.

The Small Pox Hospital to which cases of Small Pox will be sent is at Upton Pine. Telephone to Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter 67158 and this is the same number for the Ambulance.

5. GENERAL.

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital situated in the Borough serves the area. There are 10 beds for General and Maternity cases.

The North Devon Infirmary situated in Barnstaple, also serves the area, and provides modern medical and surgical treatment.

In South Molton there are 29 beds available at Beech House for the Chronic Sick.

A Blood Bank has been established at the North Devon Infirmary.

6. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

V.D. Clinic.—This is held at the Annex of the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple.

SESSIONS.

Mondays	-	4.0 p.m.	5.15 p.m,
Thursdays	-	4.30 p.m.	5.45 p.m.

CHEST CLINIC held at North Devon Infirmary.

Tuesdays	-	9.0 a.m. - 1.0 p.m. 2.0 p.m. - 4.0 p.m.	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
Thursdays	-	9.0 a.m. - 1.0 p.m. 2.0 p.m. - 4.0 p.m.	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
Fridays	-	9.0 a.m. - 1.0 p.m. 2.0 p.m. - 4.0 p.m.	A.P. refills.

7. PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOMES.

There are seven District Nurses in the area.

8. MIDWIVES.

9 Midwives have notified their intention to practice in the South Molton Rural District.

9. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Laboratory is situated at 7, Dix's Field, Exeter, and is in charge of Dr. Moore. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its Diagnostic and Consultative Services are available for all patients, and it undertakes the analysis of Drinking Water and Milk.

This Service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the Medical Practitioners in your District.

In the near future a new Pathological Laboratory will be available at the former North Devon Dispensary in Boutport Street, Barnstaple to serve the needs of the North Devon Area.

10. IMMUNIZATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

132 children received a course of primary injections and 174 received a reinforcing injection.

11. VACCINATION.

76 children were vaccinated during the year.

12. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (*i.e.* the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon County Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. Under the scheme, an Ambulance Station has been established at South Molton. The District served is South Molton and South Molton Rural District. The Hospital Car Service also under the Devon County Council is available upon application to Hospitals and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the Ambulance is not necessary.

13. "HOME HELP" SCHEME.

Run by the W.V.S. for the Devon County Council, covers all Barnstaple and Rural Areas wherever transport is available.

There are 24 "Home Helps" in Barnstaple, and 169 cases have been dealt with in 1950.

Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor, or District Nurse is entitled to a " Home Help."

The " Home Helps " do any work in the home normally done by the housewife.

Six cases are being dealt with at the moment in looking after old people living by themselves who otherwise would have to go to a hospital.

The Barnstaple branch will cover both South Molton Borough and Rural Areas, but it is hoped that a "Home Help" scheme will be started in South Molton during 1951.

I desire to thank the Mr. Willey and Mr. Karslake for the help they have given me during the year.

The Council suffered a great loss by the death of Mr. Oxland towards the end of the year.

F. J. H. MARTIN.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTING SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR TO THE SOUTH MOLTON RURAL AREA

For the year ended 31st December, 1950.

The Council and the District suffered a great loss on the sudden death in November of Mr. Oxland, who had held the position of Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor since 1928.

Water.

The North Devon Water Board took over control of the public water supplies in the area on the 1st April. Main laying continued throughout the year, and it is hoped that water will soon be passing through the mains in the district, to complete part of the General Scheme.

The sources of supply have been given in previous reports and no major alterations have been carried out. The supply at Chittlehampton is bacteriologically unsatisfactory, and the inhabitants are advised to boil all water to be used for drinking.

Ten samples were taken during the year for combined chemical and bacteriological examination, by Messrs. Tickle & Reynolds and eleven for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, results are shown below.

	Combined	Bacteriological only
Satisfactory	8	3
Unsatisfactory	2	8

As a result one Notice was served under Section 138, Public Health Act.

117 inspections were made in connection with water supplies.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No new sewerage or sewage disposal works were constructed during the year. One of the sewer outfalls at Burrington was extended in order to remove a nuisance farther from some of the Council's houses.

Five of the larger villages and one hamlet are provided with schemes for the treatment of sewage, and maintenance is done by part time caretakers. All the schemes are combined and much difficulty is caused by the ever increasing amount of road and rain-water which finds its way to the works, causing flooding and preventing the proper treatment of the sewage. More attention will have to be given to the operation and cleaning of the various systems if satisfactory effluents are to be obtained.

Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare schemes for Chulmleigh aud Chittlehampton.

Drainage Carried out During the Year.

Number of new drains laid	25
Number of extensions to drains ...	3
Number of drains cleared	3

Closet Accommodation.

Number of new closets constructed ...	11
Number of E.C's. converted to W.C's.	10

Public Cleansing.

The Central Refuse Scheme whereby the major part of the District is served, has operated satisfactorily, although complaints are received from time to time from occupiers of houses in outlying parts and far from the routes followed by the vehicle. During the year a new vehicle was provided for the collection of refuse, but most unfortunately the body is not suited for refuse collection, as the loading line is so high.

Insufficient labour and materials are available to carry out controlled tipping, but no nuisance has arisen at the central tip.

Street sweeping is done in Chulmleigh by a Contractor and in Witheridge by the Highway Authority.

Infectious Diseases.

Disinfection was carried out in 7 houses after cases of Infectious Diseases.

Food and Drugs.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES. No Slaughterhouses are in use in the district.

ICE CREAM. 7 premises are registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act 1938, for the sale of ice cream.

MEAT. 164½ lbs. meat and 17½ lbs. bacon, were found to be unfit for human consumption, and was accepted for surrender.

CANNED FOODS SURRENDERED.

Peas	9 tins
Milk	2 ,;
Jam	1 tin
Beef	1 ,,

BAKEHOUSES. No change during the year.

Owing to the shortage of Staff and Staff changes, little work was done under the Food and Drugs Act, and because of lack of water supply and drainage, it will only be with great difficulty that premises used for food preparation and storage can be brought up to the standards laid down.

Factories Act 1937.

34 Inspections were carried out of factories in the district. In one case only, was informal action taken to remedy a defect.

Housing.

22 houses were completed during the year by the Council and 5 by private enterprise.

The following schemes were in course of execution at the end of the year :—

Rackenford	...	...	...	8 houses
Witheridge	...	...	...	16 ,,
Chulmleigh	...	...	...	12 ,,

Schemes were in course of preparation at Molland and West Anstey for a further eight houses.

36 visits were paid to existing dwellinghouses and informal action taken to remedy defects.

Building Licensing.

20 applications were received for building licences, 18 of which were granted, 1 refused and 1 carried forward.

Planning and Byelaws.

41 Plans were received for consideration under the Byelaws, 39 were approved, 1 disaproved, and 1 not subject to approval. 54 Plans were received for consideration under the town and Country Planning Act, 45 of which were approved, 4 refused, 1 withdrawn, and 4 are still awaiting a decision from the Planning Officer.

W. H. KARSLAKE, M.S.I.A.

Acting Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.